

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action dated January 22, 2009, the Examiner rejected the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,051) in view of Nakai et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0064185 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons to be detailed below. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in light of the remarks herein.

**Independent Claims 1, 2, 7-10**

The present invention as set forth in independent claims 1, 2, and 7-10 is directed to systems and methods for establishing command synchronization, which, among other things, involves transmission of *two* responses in response to a command with a time-stamp transferred by an asynchronous transfer. As recited claims 1, 2, and 7-10, when a command with time-stamp is received, “*an interim response*” is first transmitted “reflecting that the received command will be executed when a current time based on the synchronized clock reaches a time represented by the time-stamp included in the command,” and subsequently, “*a complete response*” is provided that indicates completion of executing the command. By transmitting two responses, the present invention can make the use of “a command with time stamp” more effective. For instance, if a controller is to sequentially transmit a plurality of commands with time stamps to a target apparatus, without receiving any interim response from the target apparatus, the controller will not be able to transmit the next command until after the previous one has been executed, which may cause significant delays in transmitting commands.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Fujimori nor Nakai, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the above two-response recitations. In the Office Action, the Examiner cited Figs. 18 and 24, Paragraphs [0152]-[0153] of Nakai, and more specifically, the request/response nodes and acknowledgement packets disclosed therein, as disclosing the recited target apparatus including a transmitter that transmits an interim response, an executing device that executes the received command, and a replying device that provides a complete response. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s interpretation because Figs. 18 and 24 only show that a

response node executes an action corresponding to a command at a certain time point and neither figure discloses or suggests whether the response node transmits any response to the demand node. In fact, as shown in Figs. 2 and 5 of Nakai, the response node, which corresponds to the recited target apparatus according to the Examiner, executes a read process immediately after receiving a read command, and transmits a read response showing a result of the read process. In other words, the response node in Nakai transmits only one response, which at most corresponds to “the complete response” as recited in claims 1, 2, and 7-10, and there is no disclosure of any interim response in Nakai. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, and 7-10 are patentable over Fujimori and Nakai.

Dependent Claims 4-6

Claims 4-6 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-6 are patentable over Fujimori and Nakai for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (213) 892-5630.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 393032040300. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,



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